

Arroyo mulls to dispatch Marine troopers in Manila  
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MANILA, Aug. 12 (Xinhua) -- Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said on Tuesday that Marines could be deployed in the national capital region as a last resort to fend off terror activities here. "Because of the bombing in Jakarta, we have raised our alert level. The government was relying mainly on the Philippine National Police in cooperation with our local executives to prevent possible terrorist attacks," Arroyo said in a statement. The use of Marines will be considered if there is a need for greater deterrence and visibility of law enforcers in the capital region, she added. "We have done this in the past and it contributed much to the sense of security of our people. We will do everything under the law to ease public fears and anxieties and promote the normal run of commerce and livelihood," Arroyo further said. Arroyo's statement came as the public's fear for incoming terror attacks here enhanced soon after the similar eventuality took place more than week ago in Jakarta, capital of the Philippines' neighbor Indonesia.

In a separate statement, Arroyo said the hunt for Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a convicted Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) bomber who escaped on July 14 from his detention cell in the police headquarters in Manila, will continue without let up. "He has gone to roost with foreign terrorist cells training in Mindanao that must be neutralized at all costs to preempt their movement across border." The president also called on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the biggest rebel group in the country, to help locating the escapees who also included a suspected member of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group. The MILF is about to resume its formal peace talks with the government soon.